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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 IGA-02
L-03 PRS-01 /046 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JWTWINAM:CEJ
APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
PM:MR.ERICSON
NEA/RA:SPALMER
----------114665 110747Z /23
R 110309Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DOHA
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T STATE 007094

STADIS//////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, QA

SUBJECT: AMIR OF QATAR'S CRITICISM OF US LOWER GULF ARMS SALES POLICY

REF: DOHA 1516 (STADIS), MUSCAT 30 (NOTAL)

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REPORTING AND COMMENTS ON AMIR
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OF ATAR'S DISSATISFACTION WITH WHAT HE REGARDS AS RESTRICTIVE NATURE OF OUR POLICY TOWARD SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO LOWER GULF STATES. DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE HE IS NOT ALONE AMONG LOWER GULF LEADERS IN THIS GENERAL VIEW.

2. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, 1972 POLICY DECISION UNDER WHICH

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WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING HAS RECENTLY BEEN OFFICIALLY RE-
AFFIRMED AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS
ADMINISTRATION'S WORLDWIDE POLICY OF RESTRAINT IN ARMS
TRANSFERS.

3. DEPT IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE
AGENCIES IN RESPONDING TO CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR A
STUDY OF FORCE BALANCE AND ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY IN THE
PERSIAN GULF AREA. IN THIS REVIEW OF OUR MILITARY SUPPLY
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOWER GULF STATES AS WELL AS IRAN,

SAUDI ARABIA, AND KUWAIT, THE CONSIDERATIONS POINTED
OUT REFTEL ARE BEING GIVEN DUE WEIGHT.

4. ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO REVIEW INTERDEPARTMENTAL STUDY
WHICH WAS BASIS FOR 1972 POLICY DECISION, RECENTLY RE-
VIEWED, UPDATED, AND REAFFIRMED, GOVERNING SALE OF
MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO LOWER GULF STATES. WE DO NOT
SEEK A DEBATE WITH THESE STATES ON THIS POLICY NOR DO
WE WISH TO STIMULATE THEIR INTEREST IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
IN RESPONDING, HOWEVER, TO FUTURE COMPLAINTS BY GULF
LEADERS ABOUT OUR ARMS SUPPLY POLICY, ADDRESSEES MAY WISH
TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- IT IS NOT AND HAS NEVER BEEN U.S. POLICY TO DENY
APPROPRIATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE GULF STATES. USG
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IS CLEARLY CONCERNED FOR THE SECURITY OF THE AREA AND
SEEKS TO FOSTER COOPERATION AMONG THE GULF STATES IN THE
INTEREST OF REGIONAL SECURITY.

-- IN FURTHERING THIS OBJECTIVE USG STANDS READY TO BE OF
ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL STATES IN ACQUIRING SUCH TRAINING
AND EQUIPMENT AS WE DETERMINE ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS
WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN MEETING LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS.

5. FYI: DEPT IS WELL AWARE THAT SALES TO LOWER GULF
HAVE IN FACT BEEN MINIMAL BECAUSE IN MOST CASES LOWER
GULF STATES HAVE BEEN INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN OBTAINING
TYPES OF U.S. EQUIPMENT WHICH WE DO NOT FEEL U.S. COULD
SELL UNDER POLICY GUIDELINES. AS WE CONSIDER APPROPRIATE
IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES OF LOWER GULF ARMS POLICY
ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE GRATIFYING
IF LOWER GULF STATES WERE TO REVIEW THE REASONABLENESS OF
THEIR ASPIRATIONS TO ACQUIRE MODERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT
IN EXCESS OF LEGITIMATE DEFENSE AND CAPACITY TO
EFFECTIVELY ABSORB. END FYI. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, GULFS, MILITARY SALES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE007094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JWTWINAM:CEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780015-1223
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780175/aaaacluf.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b88beae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 DOHA 1516, 78 MUSCAT 30
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3793112
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMIR OF QATAR\'S CRITICISM OF US LOWER GULF ARMS SALES POLICY
TAGS: MASS, QA
To: DOHA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b88beae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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